

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING REMARKS OF RABBI
DR. ISRAEL ZOBERMAN

HON. A. DONALD McEACHIN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 9, 2019

Mr. MCEACHIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to include in the RECORD a statement from Rabbi Dr. Israel Zoberman, founder and spiritual leader of Temple Lev Tikvah in Virginia Beach, and the representative of the Jewish community at the City of Chesapeake's civic occasions.

CONSIDER "DAY OF CARING" TO HONOR BEACH
VICTIMS

(By Rabbi Dr. Israel Zoberman)

At this trying and beclouded time of grief and sorrow, we gradually and painfully come to grips with the enormity of our losses diminishing us all as well as our newly discovered vulnerabilities. Our beloved Virginia Beach and the entire Hampton Roads community lost its beautiful but dangerously blinding innocence on that fateful Friday afternoon. How could we imagine that the mass shootings in other regions would not reach us too? Truth to be told no one is insulated and immune in the wide American landscape. What happens around us near and far is bound to affect us at home. However, we are obligated to protect ourselves as best as we can given whatever limitations we face.

We are called upon now to pick up together the shattered pieces of a complex and confounding reality to reemerge rededicated and reenergized to make our threatened world, inwardly and outwardly, a safer home and better place for one and all. Our fallen 12 heroes who so callously and cowardly were taken from their loving families, co-workers, neighbors, friends and all of us, deserve no less. For their cherished memories' sake and our very survival and future let us engage more than ever with those around us, particularly the ones we deem to be beyond our intimate circle of close associates.

We acknowledge that the social phenomenon of alienation is a hallmark of our challenging times. Pleasant surprises do await us when willing to reach out beyond the familiar and engage others in simple but far-reaching acts of human interaction that hitherto we regarded as too threatening and non-consequential. There is much to be learned, gained and prevented by exercising our extraordinary ability of ordinary communication in our wonderfully diverse human environment in Hampton Roads in which too many may feel lonely, unnoticed and undervalued.

So called "strangers" cease to be strangers once we encounter and appreciate our common humanity and shared American dream in which we all have a critical stake. The Bible wisely instructs us that a celebration is not complete without including the strangers in our midst so they may transform their status, claiming their rightful place in society and in our hearts. Spreading more and more conscious but random acts of kindness and goodness in our shared garden of life and civic exchange, is bound to grow beneficial returns in kind. At times a reas-

suring smile and a generous act on the road and in the office can go a long way and even stymie road and office rage.

Our democratic and educational institutions on all levels demand our involvement and support that necessary change should occur. Surely prudent and common-sense gun control legislation along with an accountable and responsible mental health system are on the agenda. Are we waiting for more mass shootings' tragedies, oceans of tears and cries of family survivors of different languages and geographies, and heart-wrenching memorial services to propel us into action? Ought we not teach, beginning at one's home, that each finite human life is of infinite worth, and each of us is an entire, irreplaceable universe of purpose and meaning reflecting the Most High? We are witnesses to what irreparable damage can be done by a few minutes of unchecked madness and unrelenting evil, using weapons of mass destruction equipped with silencers. Let us not allow a corrosive culture of death to replace a promising culture of life.

It would be advantageous for our entire nation to take a day out for national soul-searching and resolve to delve into issues that should be paramount on our American agenda. A day in which we engage in discussions and activities toward healing our nation, creating a "National Day of Caring" that would create a ripple effect. The slogan "VB Strong" has joined us to the sorrowful and hurting family of previously affected communities, even as we pray and plan that our Virginia Beach is the last in such an unenviable category of suffering. I suggest that we be better served by the slogan, "VB Cares," which is ultimately the source of authentic strength. What befell us will surely not define us, but we cannot deny it. It may yet refine us to become more compassionate, considerate and connected with each other. My 99-year-old mom, a Polish Holocaust survivor, called me from Israel that dark day, asking, "What's happening to America?"

Rabbi Dr. Israel Zoberman is the founder and spiritual leader of Temple Lev Tikvah in Virginia Beach. He is Honorary Senior Rabbi Scholar at Eastern Shore Chapel Episcopal Church in Virginia Beach. He represents the Jewish community at the city of Chesapeake's civic occasions.

SALT LAKE COUNTY HEALTH
DEPARTMENT AWARD

HON. BEN McADAMS

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 9, 2019

Mr. McADAMS. Madam Speaker, public health departments have long provided a line of first defense, protecting the well-being of local communities. From monitoring air and water, to inspecting food safety in restaurants, to offering life-saving vaccines, public health department employees serve tirelessly. Utah's largest public health department is now getting well-deserved national recognition for its service.

The Salt Lake County Health Department has been honored as "Health Department of

the Year" by the voice of the nation's nearly 3,000 local government health departments—the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO). Judges scored award applicants on their innovation and creativity, implementation, impact in the community and engagement of community and diverse partners.

The Salt Lake County Health Department stood out on several fronts, including its response to the county's hepatitis A outbreak from 2017 to 2019; innovative use of real-time public health data; and a new public health center in downtown Salt Lake City that features co-located clinical services provided by Community Health Centers, Inc.

The award comes the same year that the health department celebrates the 50th anniversary of its current form as a combined city-county health department, its 120th anniversary as a county agency and its 170th anniversary of providing public health services to the Salt Lake Valley.

Utahns can go about their daily lives, secure in the knowledge that behind the scenes, public health department professionals are on the job. Whether it is designing innovative programs to improve air quality or providing flu vaccines to prevent illness, the Salt Lake County Health Department is an important partner in keeping Utahns safe, healthy and able to enjoy an excellent quality of life.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE EXEM-
PLARY SERVICE OF KIMBERLY
ISMAIL

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 9, 2019

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kimberly Ismail, winner of the Volunteer of the Year Governor's Service Award. Her service to the Dearborn community is worthy of commendation.

Kimberly Ismail is employed by Dearborn Public Schools and has inspired her fellow staff everyday with her kindness and drive to help others in every way that she can. Ms. Ismail chairs the Dearborn City Beautiful Commission, which promotes beautification efforts and improvement of the appearance of the City of Dearborn. She also serves on the Board of Directors for the Dearborn Symphony and as Vice President of the League of Women Voters of Dearborn and Dearborn Heights.

Ms. Ismail is known among her colleagues for her selfless dedication in her service to others. For years, she has organized the Forgotten Harvest hunger walk and was the first to introduce the "Arrive Alive" anti-distracted driving campaign in Michigan. During the school year, Ms. Ismail helps provide the school supplies that local children need to succeed. She has also taken the lead in helping new refugees gain access to food and

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

other community resources and during the holidays she can be found organizing food and gift drives for the less fortunate. The designation of Michigan Volunteer of the Year is well deserved. Her passion for volunteerism, patience, kindness, and devotion to the community is inspiring to all.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Kimberly Ismail and her lifelong commitment to the Dearborn community. Ms. Ismail has positively impacted countless lives in the City of Dearborn as well as across the state of Michigan.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE PASSING
OF ROCCO LONGO

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 9, 2019

Mr. KEATING. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the life of Rocco Longo, who served the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for more than four decades as a public servant.

A resident of Duxbury, Rocco Longo spent his entire life in Massachusetts. Rocco served as Billerica's town manager for three years before accepting the town manager position in Marshfield. His retirement as Marshfield's town manager wrapped up a four-decade career serving in municipal government. In 2018, Rocco was awarded the Joseph Moakley Public Service Award from Bridgewater State University.

Following his retirement, Rocco never truly stopped working. He served in multiple interim positions as well as serving as an instructor in a local government leadership certification program at Suffolk University. In these roles, he is remembered as a great friend who had a talent for bringing people together. He was a calming force in times of trouble, and never failed to lift the spirits of those he worked with.

Rocco Longo led a life dedicated to local government, his community, and his family. He not only excelled in his work, but he was a loving husband to his wife Colleen and father to his children Parker and Tyler. He will be dearly missed in my home state.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor the life of Rocco Longo. I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing his commitment to his family, his local community, and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

IN RECOGNITION OF CHARLES
SMITH ON HIS RETIREMENT AS
PRESIDENT OF THE MISSOURI
NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 9, 2019

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the achievements of Mr. Charles Smith, a man who has dedicated his life to the betterment of the public education system in the great state of Missouri. Mr. Smith is retiring after six years as President of the Missouri National Education Association

(MNEA), six years as Vice-President of the same organization, and decades as a public-school teacher. He leaves behind a legacy of magnanimous leadership and a passion for public service, which will continue to impact the lives of young people throughout Missouri.

As Mr. Smith retires from his position as President of the Missouri National Education Association, he will be greatly missed by his peers and colleagues. In this role, he oversaw 35,000 members, while serving as the official spokesperson for the organization, as well as acting as a liaison between local and national leaders. Upon graduation from Northwest Missouri State University, his extensive career began in Kansas City's Center School District. He spent twenty-seven years there, teaching communication arts and advising the journalism program, eventually becoming the chair of the department. Mr. Smith directly impacted the lives of thousands of students throughout his tenure in the Center School District, instilling in young people ambition to pursue their dreams. George Washington Carver once said, "Education is the key to unlock the golden door of freedom." Mr. Smith's work in education has truly brought that precious freedom to the youth of Missouri through a lifetime of dedicated service and steadfast commitment.

Mr. Charles Smith has a passion for social justice and bettering the lives of others, which is evident by the time he has spent as an activist for the African-American community. He served as the first Vice President of the Missouri NAACP for fourteen years, later becoming the organization's President for the next six. He spent time as the National Chairman of the NEA Black Caucus where he advocated for over 400,000 African-American teachers, education support professionals, college students, retired members, and administrators. He has worked to create an inclusive community in which all people are afforded equal rights and opportunities. Mr. Smith's commitment to advocating for the African-American community in Missouri not only speaks volumes to his meritorious character, but also reflects the legacy he leaves behind, as an educator, activist, and proponent of necessary change.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. Charles Smith on his retirement, as he has gone above and beyond the duty of a citizen to give back to his community time and time again. He leaves behind a legacy of great leadership, as his accomplishments continue to grow and touch every corner of our community. He will be greatly missed by his peers, colleagues, and the community that has benefited from Mr. Smith's leadership. I am proud to recognize this exceptional civil servant for the work he has done and the lives he has touched within Missouri's Fifth Congressional District.

IN RECOGNITION OF JOSH
SYRJAMAKI

HON. DEAN PHILLIPS

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 9, 2019

Mr. PHILLIPS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the decades-long service of Mr. Josh Syrjamaki and to congratulate him upon his retirement from Congressional service. A na-

tive of the Iron Range of Minnesota, Josh dedicated himself to bettering his neighbors' lives, both in his home state and across the country. His tenure in government began over 25 years ago, as a Committee Clerk in the Minnesota State Senate, and continued through prominent roles in the United States Senate and House of Representatives.

A public servant of the highest order, Josh was a listener whose finger always rested firmly on the pulse of his office's constituents. As a senior aide to the late Senator Paul Wellstone, Mr. Syrjamaki visited every corner of Minnesota, hearing the stories, dreams, and concerns of everyday citizens. His collaborative approach to government continued in his work as Representative Tim Walz's Chief of Staff, where he met with farmers, businesspeople, and local leaders across Minnesota's first district, determined to affect meaningful change and to build a stronger community. This, Madam Speaker, is what representational government is all about.

Mr. Syrjamaki selflessly advocated on behalf of the American people, forcefully supporting needed improvements for our nation's brave veterans. As a National Coordinator for the United Steelworkers Union, Josh organized grassroots campaigns to ensure that laborers received fair wages and job security. In his last months as a Congressional staffer, Josh joined me in structuring my office and developing key strategies to best serve the people of Minnesota's 3rd Congressional District.

Above all, Mr. Syrjamaki always believed, "We all do better, when we all do better." That collectively, people can unite to cultivate a brighter tomorrow. His ability to strategically motivate and inspire fellow citizens produced decades of leadership that improved schools, bettered working conditions, improved the lives of our nation's veterans, and expanded access to health care.

While his tenure in the federal government ended this past March, Josh's unwavering commitment to his fellow citizens continues today in Minnesota. As the Chief of Staff in the State's Bureau of Prisons, Mr. Syrjamaki wields his belief in every person's potential to establish a reformed correctional system that focuses on education, sharply reducing the likelihood that an inmate will reoffend, and producing a more vibrant society.

I am joined by my colleagues here in the U.S. House of Representatives, countless former staff members, and citizens across the great State of Minnesota in expressing my sincere appreciation for Josh's tireless service to this country. I look forward to witnessing his continued success and wish him well on his Congressional retirement.

CELEBRATING THE 150TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF
THE VILLAGE OF LOMBARD, IL

HON. RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 9, 2019

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Village of Lombard, and to celebrate its beginnings and the important contributions made by its citizens over its long and vibrant history.

The first European settlers to the region arrived in the early 1830s, enticed by rich farmland and the promise of a better life. Originally known as Babcock's Grove, the Village of Lombard was officially incorporated in 1869 and named in honor of Josia Lewis Lombard, a Chicago banker and real estate developer.

Among the early pioneers to the region were Sheldon and Harriet Peck. Sheldon was a folk artist of some renown, but he and Harriet also are remembered for their vigorous activism in support of women's rights, public education, temperance, and most importantly, the anti-slavery movement. The Pecks made their home a stop on the Underground Railroad and assisted numerous runaway slaves on their journey to freedom. To commemorate their courage, the Peck homestead was inducted in August of 2011 into the National Park-sponsored 'Network to Freedom' program.

The women's suffrage movement also enjoyed one of its earliest triumphs thanks to the inspired advocacy of a Lombard attorney. Ellen Martin successfully argued that the Lombard town charter gave women the right to vote, as it conferred voter status on any resident of Lombard who had reached the age of majority. On April 6, 1891, Ellen Martin cast the first vote by a woman in our state, nearly 30 years before the enactment of the 20th Amendment to the United States Constitution.

I believe the original settlers of Lombard would be deeply proud of the village they established and its distinguished history. Madam Speaker, I want to recognize this profoundly American story of courage, determination, and good works, and to acknowledge the vibrant history and future of the Village of Lombard.

HONORING KATHERINE RAPP, NATIONAL JUNIOR MISS AGRICULTURE USA

HON. DANIEL MEUSER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 9, 2019

Mr. MEUSER. Madam Speaker, it is with great respect and excitement that I rise today to honor Katherine Rapp of Paxinos, Pennsylvania. Katherine is this year's National Junior Miss Agriculture USA.

Katherine is an exceptional young woman who is incredibly engaged in her community. This Fall, she will attend Danville Area High School and participate in Future Farmers of America and the National Honor Society. At her young age, she has already won Grand and Reserve market hogs at the Bloomsburg Fair and was Grand Champion Market Steer at the Montour-Delong Fair. Given her passion for agriculture, she chose to participate in this year's Miss Agriculture USA competition. I can think of nobody better to promote American agriculture, and our strong Pennsylvania farms and dairies than Katherine.

I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Katherine on her commitment to agriculture. On behalf of the citizens of Pennsylvania's Ninth Congressional District, and the U.S. House of Representatives, I congratulate Katherine on her crown and wish her the best in this and all her future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE VOLUNTEERS OF THE SHELTER ASSOCIATION OF WASHTENAW COUNTY FOR THEIR EXEMPLARY SERVICE

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 9, 2019

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Shelter Association of Washtenaw County for receiving Governor Gretchen Whitmer's Outstanding Volunteer Organization Award. The association's tremendous dedication to ending homelessness has made a meaningful impact in the Washtenaw County community and makes them a deserving recipient of this honor.

Since 1982, the Shelter Association of Washtenaw County has supported individuals struggling with homelessness in the community. The association provides a variety of services to a diverse group of people experiencing homelessness that are designed to return their sense of hope and dignity. Thanks to the compassionate service of the association, people are given a renewed sense of stability through consistent access to food, shelter, medical care, and other programs that help them learn how to succeed independently.

The volunteers of the Shelter Association of Washtenaw County have made a meaningful difference in Washtenaw County. Through their efforts, they have become the primary provider of services and emergency shelter in the community, and their ceaseless efforts continue to make a positive impact in the lives they touch—evident in their new Art Break Studio that has fostered a safe, creative, and welcoming space that has allowed many to reduce their anxiety and build a greater sense of self-esteem.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Shelter Association of Washtenaw County for their exceptional efforts. Their lasting impact on the Washtenaw County community is worthy of commendation.

RECOGNIZING LUCIO "CHIO" GONZALES AND BUTTER TORRES GONZALES

HON. TJ COX

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 9, 2019

Mr. COX of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the leadership of Lucio "Chio" Gonzales and Butter Torres Gonzales. Together, this couple has dedicated over 60 years of community and public service to the city of Delano, California and the Central Valley.

A native of Blythe, California, Mr. Gonzales settled in the Central Valley in the 1950s after spending his early years working as a migrant farmworker in the region's rich agricultural fields. Mr. and Mrs. Gonzales met in the historic farmworker community of Delano and were married on November 24, 1956. The couple took over ownership and operation of

the People's Market in 1969, and the two worked together side by side managing the grocery store in Delano for 40 years.

Mr. and Mrs. Gonzales formed a strong bond over the years with the Filipino Community of Delano. The two have served as advocates and allies for the inclusion and representation of Filipinos in Delano civic life. They played an instrumental role in electing Leonard T. Velasco to the Delano City Council in 1972, the first Filipino American to serve on the elected body.

Mr. and Mrs. Gonzales have also worked to ensure the success of Delano's Philippine Weekend community celebration for the last 45 years. They have helped build the event from a small community gathering all those years ago, to a large month-long festival that draws thousands of visitors from across the country. It is fitting that Mr. and Mrs. Gonzales are being honored by the community with the 2019 Mabuhay Award.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Lucio "Chio" Gonzales and Butter Torres Gonzales for their dedication and service to the Filipino Community of Delano, the city of Delano, and the Central Valley.

HONORING CLARENCE "BUD" RANDALL'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 9, 2019

Mr. KATKO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Clarence "Bud" Randall as he celebrates his 100th birthday. Throughout his life, Mr. Randall has demonstrated exemplary patriotism through his service in World War II, and longstanding devotion to his family and friends.

Serving as a Staff Sergeant in the Army's 373rd Engineers Unit during War II, Mr. Randall supported efforts in Germany, France, Belgium, and England. During the war, Mr. Randall worked with his unit of engineers to ensure the safety of his fellow soldiers by clearing mines and constructing floating docks used in Normandy. Notably, at the war's end, Mr. Randall and his unit were among the first service members to enter Nazi concentration camps and liberate those held captive.

After completion of his military service, Mr. Randall returned home to earn a bachelor's degree in accounting from Robert Morris University. In 1969, Mr. Randall moved with his wife and six children to Canton, New York, where he then accepted a job as the Vice President of Business Affairs for St. Lawrence University. Mr. Randall held this position for 16 years before retiring from the University. Today, Mr. Randall remains active, continuing to prepare taxes for clients as an enrolled agent.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the House join me in honoring the life and service of Mr. Clarence "Bud" Randall. Mr. Randall's life has been one marked by admirable devotion to his family, friends, and country.

BOHME FOUNDERS—SMALL BUSINESS PERSONS OF THE YEAR IN UTAH 2019

HON. BEN McADAMS

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 9, 2019

Mr. McADAMS. Madam Speaker, two sisters who immigrated from Argentina to Utah as children turned hard work and a dream into a remarkable business success story in just 12 years.

In 2007, Vivien and Fernanda Bohme first opened in a temporary space in Fashion Place Mall, to sell their clothing during the approaching holiday season. Their fashion hit turned out to be what they dubbed “sexy, modest” denims and tees. After a strong start, they opened a permanent store in Orem’s University Mall, just ahead of what became the Great Recession. Like many small businesses, they struggled, but they persevered.

Next, they started a location in Salt Lake City’s Gateway Mall, which they remodeled themselves to save money. Vivien stopped work one night to go to the hospital and deliver her baby, but soon returned to finish the space. Profits were used to pay off debt and expand into new areas. “Bootstrap was our middle name,” Vivien told a local news reporter.

Their entrepreneurial success earned them a mention in Inc. magazine’s list of 5,000 fastest-growing companies. They now operate 16 stores in five states and are known for making themselves available to their 225 employees at all levels.

Every Bohme employee is given three paid days off to volunteer at a charity of their choice. In 2018, the company experienced record profits and revenue growth.

Last May, during National Small Business Week the U.S. Small Business Administration honored Vivien and Fernanda jointly as “Utah Small Business Person of the Year.” Their inspiring story is one example of how Utah’s economy and our communities thrive thanks to the drive, determination and dedication shown by diverse individuals willing to chase their dreams here in America.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF HAZEL JACOBS

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 9, 2019

Mr. Keating. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Hazel Jacobs, a resident of Pocasset, Massachusetts, who turned 100 years young on July 27, 2019.

Hazel was born in Sulphur, Louisiana. In her early twenties she was inspired to join the war effort during World War II, becoming a member of the Woman’s Army Corps. Hazel continued her service in the Pentagon, coding and deciphering transcontinental messages in the Classified Message Center. It was during her time at the Pentagon that Hazel attended a dinner party with a friend—a dinner party that turned out to be a setup. Hazel’s friend introduced her to a soldier named Sal David “Jake” Jacobs. The two hit it off that evening,

but they both were soon discharged and went their separate ways.

After some years apart, Hazel went to visit a friend in Boston, and none other than Sal Jacobs was waiting for her on the platform. Together again, Hazel and Sal married, lived in Boston, and had two sons, Allen and Robert. When Sal sadly passed away in 1966, Hazel returned to her life in public service. She worked for the City of Boston for several years, continuing her devotion to her family and community.

Today, Hazel lives in Pocasset, where she enjoys her lifelong artistic hobby of needlepoint and spending cherished time with Allen, Robert, and their families.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Hazel Jacobs on this joyous occasion of her 100th birthday. I ask that my colleagues join me in wishing her many more years of health and happiness.

MARK DALLAS—AMERICAN POLICE HALL OF FAME OFFICER OF THE YEAR

HON. ADAM KINZINGER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 9, 2019

Mr. Kinzinger. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an American hero and good friend, Officer Mark Dallas, for being named the National Officer of the Year by the American Police Hall of Fame and Museum.

On the morning of Wednesday, May 16, 2018, a student open fired inside Dixon High School. Without hesitation, Officer Dallas chased down the gunman and returned fire. He disarmed the shooter and took him into custody. Officer Dallas’ selflessness and professionalism saved the lives of hundreds of students and staff, including his own son.

On August 11, 2019, Officer Dallas will receive this award given to those who protect the thin blue line. Congratulations to Officer Mark Dallas on receiving this momentous award and being enshrined with the other men and women who have devoted their lives to protect the people of the United States. It is my great honor to once again recognize his actions in the House of Representatives.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE DEDICATED SERVICE OF BASF TO THE MICHIGAN COMMUNITY

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 9, 2019

Mrs. Dingell. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize BASF for receiving Governor Gretchen Whitmer’s Corporate and Small Business Community Leader Award. BASF’s commitment to the community and the state of Michigan makes them an excellent recipient of this great honor.

Since its establishment, BASF has striven to create a sustainable future. Their innovative work in chemistry not only rises to meet today’s most pressing challenges, but also simultaneously promotes environmental protection and social responsibility. In 1969, BASF

became a part of the Michigan community, opening a site in Wyandotte, Michigan. The corporation has been a dedicated and charitable member of the community ever since.

BASF continues to pursue a brighter future by investing in the future leaders of Michigan: our children. BASF employees volunteer at the BASF Kid’s Lab, a program that aims to inspire children’s interest in chemistry by bringing hands-on service and demonstrations to classrooms and science centers throughout southeast Michigan. The program is an interactive, fun, and free education program designed to expose young children to the marvels of chemistry through simple and safe experiments. Each demonstration exhibits how chemistry can benefit the environment and lead to a brighter future for all. These generous efforts clearly reflect BASF’s commitment to investing in the next generation and exemplify their tremendous service to Michigan.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating BASF for their exceptional work. Their lasting impact on the Michigan community is worthy of commendation.

TRIBUTE TO DR. HUGHES MELTON

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 9, 2019

Mr. Griffith. Madam Speaker, I pay tribute to Dr. Hughes Melton of Bristol, Virginia, a military veteran, public servant, and compassionate physician who most recently was Commissioner of the Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services. Dr. Melton passed away on August 2, 2019, at the age of 52 following a car wreck.

Dr. Melton was born in Florida but made Virginia his home. After studying at Washington and Lee University and the University of Virginia School of Medicine, he served in the United States Army. Following his time in the service, he opened a practice in Lebanon, Russell County. There, he focused intently on the needs of his rural community and developed a specialty for treating addiction. His medical skill and care for his patients earned him recognition by the American Academy of Family Physicians as the Family Physician of the Year in 2011.

He eventually took on work as an administrator, first as Chief Medical Officer for Mountain States Health Alliance’s Virginia facilities and then as Vice President of Medical Education for its northeast and northwest markets. Among his objectives as an administrator, he recognized the need for more physicians to serve Southwest Virginia. To that end, he helped to start a family medicine residency. During his time at Johnston Memorial Hospital in Abingdon, he won the Servant’s Heart Award and furthered his education with a Master’s in Business Administration from the University of Virginia’s Darden School of Business.

After serving as Deputy Commissioner of the Virginia Health Department, he was appointed Commissioner of the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services in 2018. As Commissioner, Dr. Melton was able to apply his considerable talent and deep empathy to addressing the mental and

behavioral health challenges facing Virginians. He traveled the state and worked with public officials, medical professionals, and all invested in our Commonwealth to find answers. Before the tragic car accident, he had been in Harrisonburg attending a conference of advocates for Virginians with intellectual and developmental disabilities, where he gave a speech and talked with the attendees.

In addition, Madam Speaker, I knew him and talked to him over the years about health challenges in our home of Southwest Virginia, including the opioid crisis. As was typical, I last saw him volunteering his time alongside his wife Dr. Sarah Melton at the Remote Area Medical clinic in Wise on June 29. It is a loss for all the Commonwealth of Virginia and particularly Southwest Virginia.

He is survived by Sarah, daughters Maggie and Claire, and his father Howard. My prayers are with them. As they grieve the loss of their family member, Virginia grieves the loss of an outstanding public servant.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF KENNETH
HOFMANN

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 9, 2019

Mr. DeSAULNIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and service of Bay Area businessman and devoted philanthropist Kenneth Hofmann.

Ken was born February 15, 1923 in Oakland, California. He graduated from Fremont High School in Oakland and later attended Saint Mary's College in Moraga before embarking on a successful career in home-building in 1948 as a plastering contractor.

In 1957, Ken founded his real estate development company, Hofmann Company. By the mid-1980s, Hofmann Company had built more than 30,000 homes and apartments and more than \$150 million worth of commercial and industrial properties. In recognition of this remarkable achievement, Ken was inducted into the California Building Industry Association's hall of fame class of 1986.

Throughout his life, Ken used his success in real estate to enrich and give back to his community. A true philanthropist, Ken was a supporter of youth sports and education. For nearly 30 years, Ken donated millions to De La Salle High School, helping finance new facilities, and he opened the De La Salle Academy to provide food, books, and tutors to underprivileged students. Additionally, Ken was an ardent supporter and benefactor of the Saint Mary's Athletics Program. He was named SMC Alumnus of the Year in 1983 and served as both a Regent and a Trustee over the course of two decades.

Ken was an avid outdoorsman and provided the leadership and assistance necessary to jump-start the creation of the Pacific Flyaway Center, a project that is currently seeking final permits. Passionate about wildlife and waterfowl, Ken dreamed of creating the Center to showcase the story of the primary north-south route for migratory birds in the Western U.S.

Ken is survived by Jean, his wife for 60 years, and their two daughters Lori and Lisa. Ken's contributions to the Bay Area will be cherished, and his devotion to sports, youth, and wildlife will long be remembered.

RECOGNIZING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY FAIR

HON. DANIEL MEUSER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 9, 2019

Mr. MEUSER. Madam Speaker, it is with great respect and excitement that I rise today to honor the Northumberland County Fair on its 20th Anniversary.

For two decades the Northumberland County Fair has brought communities together to share in the county's traditions and achievements. What began as an exhibition for local 4-H programs has quickly become a community staple. The fair showcases the county's extensive achievements in agriculture, crafts, baking, gardening, and so much more. As they say, "If you don't learn something at the fair, you just aren't paying attention."

Representative FRED KELLER and I ask our colleagues to join us in congratulating the Northumberland County Fair on twenty incredible years celebrating our communities. May this tradition continue for many years to come.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF MR.
ROBERT HERRING

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 9, 2019

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Robert Spencer Herring, who passed away on Monday, August 5th at the age of 79.

Robert, a lifelong resident of Guntown, Mississippi, dedicated his life to bettering his community.

He served Lee County as both the Justice Court Judge and the Sheriff for two terms. Robert was also a former Mayor of Guntown. He and his wife, Jo Ann, attended Guntown First Baptist Church.

Left to cherish his memory is his wife, Jo Ann Robison Herring of Guntown; his sons—Barry Herring of Hattiesburg and Darren Herring of Guntown; his six grandchildren; two great-grandchildren as well as many more family members and friends.

Robert's life was one of service, grace, love for his family, and community. He will be greatly missed by all whom he encountered.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE
MARGIE N. GARRETT

HON. NANETTE DIAZ BARRAGÁN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 9, 2019

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the extraordinary life of the Honorable Margie N. Garrett, Trustee of the Compton Unified School District Board of Education.

Beginning as a Noon Duty Aide before going on to be a Head Start Teacher, State Preschool Teacher and Kindergarten Teacher at Carver Elementary School in Compton,

Garrett's career as an educator spanned four decades prior to her retirement in 2009.

During her decades-long career as an educator, Garrett served as President and Vice President of the Board of Directors, Bargaining Committee Chairperson and as Political Action Chairperson for the Compton Education Association—she was honored for her work with the California Teachers Association South-eastern Service Center.

Margie N. Garrett was first elected to the Compton Unified School District Governing Board of Trustees in 2009 and was re-elected in 2013. As a trustee, Garrett served as President and Vice President to the Board and led Compton Unified School District's legislative advocacy in Washington, D.C. and Sacramento, California.

Garrett's fight for and commitment to educational excellence and a cleaner and safer learning environment for students was unwavering. Her passion and dedication improved working conditions and installed career pathways for district employees. Her advocacy and leadership helped decrease Compton Unified School District's dropout rate and improved access to early childhood education.

I, along with the residents of California's 44th Congressional District, mourn the passing of the Honorable Margie N. Garrett and celebrate her service and the indelible impact she has had on the students of the Compton Unified School District.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL HEALTH
CENTER WEEK

HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 9, 2019

Mr. KATKO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join East Hill Family Medical in Auburn, New York in recognizing National Health Center Week from August 4, 2019 through August 18, 2019. This week honors the significant impact of Community Health Centers, like East Hill Family Medical, on America's healthcare system. For over 50 years, Community Health Centers have provided high-quality, affordable, and comprehensive primary and preventative healthcare services in our nation's underserved communities.

As the country's largest primary care network, Community Health Centers currently serve 28 million Americans across the country. These centers are a critical element of our healthcare system, providing healthcare to both rural and urban populations. Often, Community Health Centers serve as the only accessible and dependable source of primary care for underserved communities.

Every day, Community Health Centers work to develop new approaches to healthcare, integrating a wide-range of services beyond just primary care. Further, they are on the frontlines of emerging healthcare crises, providing access to care for our nation's veterans, addressing the opioid epidemic, and responding to public health threats in the wake of natural disasters.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the House join me during National Health Center Week in recognizing the great contributions of East Hill Family Medical in Auburn, New York as well as Community Health Centers across the country.

RECOGNIZING SHIRLEY COMBS

HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 9, 2019

Mr. COLLINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Shirley Combs for the lifechanging impact she has made on the homeless community in Toccoa, Georgia.

Nineteen years ago, Ms. Combs opened Shirley's Sole Food Café in Toccoa. It was opening day, and she had just prepared heaps of homemade creamed corn, fried chicken, sweet potato cobbler—every southern food you could ever imagine. Lunchtime rolled around, and she opened her doors with excitement, but there was just one small problem—there wasn't a customer in sight. In an effort to ensure her delicious food didn't go to waste, Ms. Shirley walked out outside, found a homeless man, and told him to round up everyone he knew to come eat.

Nearly two decades later, and Ms. Shirley is still nurturing the homeless in more ways than one. Each afternoon when her restaurant closes to the general public, a line begins to form at the back door; a line of people looking for a second chance and a full belly. As one of her customers recently said, "discarded food nourishes the soul of another."

But Ms. Shirley's mission to nourish souls in need doesn't stop there. Listed on her menu is the option to donate to Shirley's Shelter—a 501c3 that has helped over 300 people get off the streets in the last 12 years, which is funded thanks to customer donations and a monthly breakfast. Through Shirley's Shelter, Ms. Shirley maintains three homes for previously homeless men and women who help at the restaurant until they get back on their feet while remaining drug free. Ms. Shirley also works to reconnect them to their families, often distanced due to addiction.

Reflecting on her restaurant and shelter, Ms. Shirley recently remarked, "all glory and honor goes to God. We are called to care for the least among us."

Ms. Shirley is certainly caring for the least among us, and in the most beautiful way—by turning her passion of cooking into care and compassion for those less fortunate. On behalf of the Ninth District, I want to thank her for transforming lives in Toccoa and beyond.

HONORING THE WORLD WAR II,
KOREAN WAR, AND VIETNAM
WAR VETERANS OF ILLINOIS**HON. MIKE QUIGLEY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 9, 2019

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam War veterans who traveled to Washington, D.C. on August 7, 2019 with Honor Flight Chicago, a program that provides World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam War veterans the opportunity to visit their memorials on The National Mall in Washington, D.C. These memorials were built to honor their courage and service to their country.

The American Veteran is one of our greatest treasures. The Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors,

Marines, and Coast Guardsmen who traveled here on August 7th answered our nation's call to service during several of its greatest times of need. Across the world, these brave Americans risked life and limb, gave service and sacrificed much, all while embodying what it is to be a hero. We owe them more gratitude than can ever be expressed.

I welcome these brave veterans to Washington and to their memorials. I am proud to include in the RECORD the names of these men and women for all to see, hear, and recognize, and I call on my colleagues to rise and join me in expressing gratitude.

Lawrence F. Anaszewicz, Walter J. Anczerewicz, Glenn R. Anderson, Gerald H. Arnott, John L. Augustine, Thomas Bartholomew, Randall E. Beck, William F. Bike, Dominic Biondi, Clarence Bowling, Matthew F. Bryla Jr., Raymond G. Cartwright, Frank R. Catuara, Leroy Cobb, Giuseppe Cursio, Thomas H. Diamond, Eugene G. Dilling, James F. Daddato, Ward W. Dunlap.

George J. Dusek, Sylvester R. Dziedzic, Florian C. Dziedzic, David Charles Eaton, George A. Eckberg Jr., David D. Evans, Theodore Rawland Floyd, Felix Grzelinski Jr., Vito Gulotta, Denis Harbison, Kastytis V. Ilginis, Howard A. Ischinger, Lauren Ray Jackson, Ronald E. Jacobsen, Richard J. Jaime, Ben F. Jimms, William R. Johnson, William J. Juneau, Melvin D. Keef, Gary L. Keen, Thomas F. Keith.

Thomas W. Kellner, Thomas M. Kelly, John Kennaugh, Joseph M. Kiefer, Howard L. Kirby, Lawrence P. Klaus, Daniel A. Konczak, Sr., Barbara A. Lloyd, Edward Ludwig, Charles Luhan Jr., Samuel J. Maggio, Joseph P. Maloney, Robert S. Mamrot, William D. Margwarth, Joseph Martinek, Ramon J. Mayer, Weems McCullum Sr., Robert E. McDonald, Bruce McElhose, Raymon O. Meredith, Jr., Thomas A. Mlynek, Loren H. Monsess, Frank F. Montefalco.

Larry Moton, Wallace Myers, Gary A. Nelson, George R. Nuter, Thomas G. Obmascik, Frank W. Passananti, Donald James Phelps, Phillip F. Pintor, George W. Podowski, Louis G. Puhl, Thomas Reddish, Andrej A. Remec, Ronald Riopel, Irwin Rosenson, Fred Roberto Rymar, Robert C. Sanders, Reynold Sanfilip, Allan F. Schaefer, Roger P. Schaff, Charles E. Schindler, Curt O. Schumacher, Edward Schwartz, Richard E. Scott.

Dennis F. Shea, Thomas A. Shumpert, Norman Simone, Robert Dennis Smith, David J. Smith, James S. Sowinski, Bernard R. Stack, Charles J. Stanek, Jerry T. Stewart, Gregory R. Stoltman, Vernon Strege, Joseph A. Stubits, William D. Swaggerty, Joseph J. Tortorich, Teddy Turner, Vernon Tweddle, Michael L. Urbano, Henry A. VanProyen, Allan L. Walraven, Keith A. Whitman, Edward A. Zimmerman, David Zorn, James R. Zwit.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE VOLUNTEERS OF FRIENDS IN DEED OF YPSILANTI

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 9, 2019

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the volunteers of Friends in Deed of Ypsilanti. They have received the Outstanding Volunteer Program Governor's Service Award for their commitment to the service of those in the Washtenaw County community.

Since 1983, Friends in Deed of Ypsilanti has provided assistance to their neighbors in need in Washtenaw County. These services include direct monetary assistance, adaptive services, the providing of needed furniture, such as beds, and their own Circles program which helps families get out of poverty. These programs "fill the cracks of assistance" between other nonprofits and agencies. The Friends in Deed mission is "Helping People in Need; Building Community to End Poverty."

Over 200 volunteers serve nearly 7,000 hours per year at Friends in Deed of Ypsilanti. They assist their neighbors and their families in navigating crisis, help families with payment related to emergency medical needs, repair needed means of transportation, and other one-time payments. Those who are assisted by Friends in Deed are given the confidence, independence, skills, support and resources, to help them escape poverty. Friends in Deed of Ypsilanti's designation of Outstanding Volunteer Program of the Year is well deserved. Their services have vastly impacted and improved the lives of countless families in Washtenaw County.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the volunteers of Friends in Deed of Ypsilanti. Their commitment to helping and serving their community is unmatched.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND SCHOLARSHIP OF HISHAM AHMED

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 9, 2019

Mr. DESAULNIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and scholarship of long time Saint Mary's College professor, Dr. Hisham H. Ahmed.

Hisham was born in 1963 at the Dheisheh refugee camp near Bethlehem, Palestine. Despite being born without eyesight, Hisham committed himself to his studies as a child and scored third in the Palestinian National Exams, enabling him to study in the United States.

Hisham began his academic career at Illinois State University earning a bachelor's degree in political science in 1985. He went on to earn a masters and doctorate in political science from the University of California, Santa Barbara in 1986 and 1988, respectively. Over the next 30 years, he would teach at Florida International University, the University of North Dakota, Bir Zeit University in Palestine, and ultimately here in Contra Costa County at Saint Mary's College of California.

Hisham was a renowned scholar of Middle East politics and international relations, as well as an expert on terrorism and the Hamas movement. In 1993, he served as a Fulbright Scholar in Palestine. Hisham worked constantly to improve international understanding through teaching and research, and co-founded several international bodies to enhance peace, democracy, and human rights in the Middle East.

Beyond his professional achievements, Hisham wrote poetry and was well-versed in Arabic literature. He was a loving husband and father, and had a wonderful sense of humor. As a teacher, scholar, and advocate, he spoke truth to power to remove walls, build trust, and empower others.

Please join me in honoring the life of Dr. Hisham Ahmed. He will be sorely missed by his family, friends, colleagues, and students.

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND DR. W.
JEROME FISHER

HON. NANETTE DIAZ BARRAGÁN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 9, 2019

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the extraordinary life of the late Reverend Dr. W. Jerome Fisher, pastor of the first black church in Compton, California.

Reverend Dr. W. Jerome Fisher was born March 11, 1924 in the small town of Merryville, Louisiana in an era of sharecropping and Jim Crow. After accompanying his father to Chicago, Illinois as a child, Jerome Fisher honorably served his country as a medic in Normandy during World War II.

After serving in World War II, W. Jerome Fisher moved to Compton, California where he built the City's first black church, Little Zion Missionary Baptist Church.

Under the leadership of W. Jerome Fisher, Little Zion's congregation grew from 13 members to over 2,000, forming several community outreach programs to meet the needs of the greater community.

As pastor, Jerome Fisher, led Little Zion and the Compton community through times of pain and triumph for more than 50 years—including offering the opening invocation for the 100th Congress in 1988.

Sixty-five years after its founding, Little Zion Missionary Baptist Church now stands as Greater Zion Missionary Baptist Church—a beacon of Jerome Fisher's indelible legacy of distinguished service. That legacy lives on through its current pastor, Dr. Michael J. Fisher, his son, who took on the mantle of pastor in 2005.

I, along with the residents of California's 44th Congressional District mourn the passing of Reverend Dr. W. Jerome Fisher and celebrate his service and remarkable work.

IN CELEBRATION OF JERRY
FISCHER

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 9, 2019

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the career of Jerry Fischer, a dedicated servant and defender of the Jewish community, who retired as executive director of the Jewish Federation of Eastern Connecticut on June 30, 2019, after leading the Federation since 1984. Jerry lives in the state of Connecticut, where he has acted as a strengthening and unifying force for the state's Jewish community for thirty-five years.

Jerry is, and always has been, a bastion for the preservation and prosperity of Connecticut's Jewish constituents. In his final year-end report, he told the Jewish Federation's board of directors that the goal his three-decade career was "to bring acts of loving kindness into the community and the world." Native to Washington Heights, at 17 years old Jerry made the journey from New York City to Israel, where he spent a year, eventually making the decision to join the Israeli army for the Six Day War of June 1967. He cited this decision as a response to the Holocaust, the genocide that brutally murdered 6 million of his own people. His childhood in Washington Heights places him in one of the epicenters of the civil rights movements; Jerry took this experience and his time in Israel to create a career of leadership based in compassion and justice.

Determined to push the Jewish community and the world forward, rather than back, Jerry stood up in the face of Holocaust skeptics and deniers and began the Encountering Survivors program, which brought Holocaust survivors and their family members face to face with high school students so that their stories of persecution and survival may live on through younger generations. In one such case, Jerry recruited 91-year-old Rae Gawendo, a Jewish refugee who arrived in Connecticut in the wake of the second World War, and, with the help of the Jewish Agricultural Society, started a chicken farm with her husband Jacob. Gawendo was sent from the Vilna ghetto to the Klooga work camp in 1942, where she was forced to work in a sawmill that processed the very logs used to bum Jewish bodies. She first spoke about her nightmare at a Holocaust commemoration arranged by Jerry Fischer, who later orchestrated meetings of

small groups of students in her home, who listened with rapt attention as she recounted the truth of her life—before, during, and after the war. Through interactions like these, Jerry created lasting, crucial bonds between generations that solidified his place among the country's leaders in indisputably preserving the memory of the Holocaust.

Madam Speaker, Jerry has also been a positive voice in Southeastern Connecticut moral and social life, promoting solidarity with other religious communities. Every Martin Luther King Day he has marched with Bishop Watts of the Shiloh Baptist Church and hundreds of other shivering members of the New London County community to an ecumenical observance of Martin Luther King's life and legacy. He has organized public forums to discuss the Middle East conflict, and has been a voice of moderation, supporting a two-state solution as a path to peace. He has led thousands of Eastern Connecticut residents on trips to the Middle East, and his fluency in Hebrew and encyclopedic knowledge of the Holy Land educated all of his guests on the wonder and deep spiritual history of that region. I personally experienced that a few years back when he took me through Jerusalem and was equally conversant on the Wailing Wall, Dome of the Rock, and the Stations of the Cross in a spellbinding tour that I will never forget. He also rescued me from an unscrupulous vendor in the marketplace who tried to overcharge me for some religious souvenirs I naively almost overpaid for. Thanks again Jerry.

Jerry has also been there to support the community in sad and tragic moments. After the sickening mass shooting at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in 2018, Jerry joined local rabbis, ministers, imams and priests to deliver a message of love and resolve to end senseless hate and gun violence in the media and at public events. He is a quintessential leader for all of us in Eastern Connecticut and we have been blessed by his grace and wisdom.

Madam Speaker, although Jerry is stepping down as Executive Director, he plans to continue to be an active member of the Jewish community. In an editorial detailing the highlights of his career, *The New London Day* wrote, "He and his wife Christine will remain in the area, and we suspect his mitzvahs—his acts of loving kindness—will continue, because that's who Jerry Fischer is." I would ask the House to please join me in extending our deepest gratitude to Jerry for his years of service and dedication to the Jewish community.